THE CHITTIES REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Subba Aiyar:—

"Sir,

I beg to introduce a Bill to amend the Chitties Regulation, III of 1094. The Bill is a short one and it has been published in the Gazette and it is therefore unnecessary for me to obtain leave for introducing it in the Council. With regard to the provisions in the amending Bill, it will be seen that under Section 18 of the Chitties Regulation, every foreman is bound to keep books which may be prescribed by Government from time to time, but no penalty has been provided in the Regulation for not keeping the books required to be kept by the Section. The result is that it is not possible to enforce the provisions of Section 18. The Director of Registration therefore suggested that the necessary penal provisions should be made in the Regulation. It is with that view that the Bill has been drafted. I beg to move that the principle of the Bill be affirmed."

Seconded by Mr. Rajaraja Varma.

Mr. John Nidiry:—

"I beg to accept the principle of the Bill and in doing so, I should like to make one observation. The foremen of chitties in Travancore do much co-operative credit work and chitties are in some respects rendering useful help in that direction. So, punishment for irregularities like not keeping of accounts should not be visited by heavy fines. I would suggest a fine of Rs. 10 instead of Rs. 50 as provided in the Bill."

Mr. Subba Aiyar's motion was carried.

Mr. Subba Aiyar:—

"The Bill is a short and non-contentious one. I therefore beg to move that the Bill be not referred to a Select Committee and that it be taken up for consideration at once, the rules being suspended."

Seconded by Dr. Kunjan Pillai.

Carried.

Mr. John Nidiry:—

"I beg to move that the word "ten" be substituted for "fifty" in line 2 of the new Clause which is proposed to be added as Section 18 A."

The motion fell through for want of seconding.

The consideration of the Bill over, Mr. Subba Aiyar moved that the rules as to final reading be suspended and that the Bill be finally read and passed.

Seconded by Mr. Raman Menon.

Carried.

THE TRAVANCORE ELECTIONS OFFENCES AND INQUIRIES BILL.

Mr. Subba Aiyar:—

"Sir,

I beg to introduce the Elections Offences and Inquiries Bill. This Bill has been published under rule 32 of the rules for the conduct of business of the Legislative Council. In introducing the Bill, I may say a few words in explanation of the main provisions of the Bill and the necessity therefor. It will be evident that, under the old Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation, election for Municipal seats was allowed by Government, and under the present Municipal Regulation the majority of the members of the Municipalities are elected. Similarly from Regulation II of 1097 which has been recently passed, it will be clear that the majority of seats in the Legislative Council, *viz.*, 28, is intended to be thrown open for election. So far as this Regulation is concerned, I need hardly say that it confers very real and substantial powers upon the people, in as much as the power of the purse is granted to the Council. Except with reference to certain subjects, the budget has to be placed in the form of demands for grants and the same has to be sanctioned by the Council. It is only then that the budget can be given effect to. This being the case, it is only desirable that the members should really represent the views of the people. To secure this object it is necessary that in the matter of elections purity and honesty should be aimed at. With a view, therefore, to protect elections from corruption and malpractices, the present Bill has been drafted. I do not think that there will be any difference of opinion on the question that all elections should be free from corrupt practices. I do not for a moment say that there have been many such practices in the past. What I say is that it is likely that there may hereafter be cases of such practices. It is therefore thought desirable that before the elections for the new Legislative Council take place, a Regulation penalising corrupt practices in elections should be passed. It is with that view that the Bill has been drafted. The Bill is in accordance with the English Law of 1883 and 1890 and the British Indian Act recently passed.

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